

# AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

INCORPORATED

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Cabinet d'Egyptologie

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25 January 1956

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY

### NUBIA AND THE HIGH DAM

The following item has been contributed by  
Dr. William K. Simpson, Research Associate  
of the Center in Cairo:

"A publication of great interest has recently appeared. It is entitled Report on the Monuments of Nubia Likely to be submerged by Sudd-el-Ali Water, published by the Government Press, Cairo, 1955, for the Antiquities Department of the Ministry of Education. After a preface by the Director-General of the Antiquities Department, Professor Mustafa Amer, there follows a letter addressed to the Minister of Education by Dr. Selim Hassan. In the letter he mentions the great need for a project to save the monuments, and that the assistance of foreign colleagues and UNESCO would be gratefully accepted. The committee, which visited Nubia in December, 1954, and January, 1955, consisted of Dr. Selim Hassan (president), Dr. Ahmed Fakhry, Labib Habachi, architect Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, and architect Mustafa Sobhi Mohammed. The results of their survey and their recommendations, together with cost estimates, are the subjects of the report. An account of previous scientific work is given before their description of the sites.

"As is generally known, the building of the new High Dam will entail the flooding of a vast area extending as far south as the Third Cataract. The maximum water level will be at 180 meters, compared with the present 121 meters and the earlier 113 meters. The High Dam will be larger than any in the United States and will hold back a larger volume of water than has ever been retained by a dam. The report of the committee consists of a plan to save the archaeological monuments in the flooded area and a plan to excavate the important sites. It would far exceed the space allotted to me in this Newsletter if I summarized the committee's suggestions as to the procedure to be followed at every site. A few observations are of special interest. At Philae the level of the water will be reduced from 121 meters to 110 meters, since the dam will be to its south. The committee recommends that it be included in the project, and that breakwaters between the surrounding islands be constructed, thus making it possible to visit the temples. A complete photographic record should be made and casts taken of twenty scenes. Latex impressions of all inscriptions and reliefs should be made and also a model of the temples to scale. At Abu Simbel two alternatives are suggested, the first an ambitious and expensive project to save the temple by building a special dam to divert the water, the second a project to sacrifice the façade and make an opening in the



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cliff leading down to the great interior court of the temple. These projects would cost L. E. 700,000 (\$2,100,000) and L. E. 50,000 (\$150,000) respectively. Even if the first project is carried out, the natural beauty of the site would be impaired and there may be danger from the seepage of water.

"Chapter III of the report is a detailed outline of the missions necessary and their personnel and material: 1. cinematographic and photographic mission; 2. mission for taking latex or paper impressions; 3. mission for making models of temples and casts of some of the scenes; 4. mission for excavations in Nubia; 5. mission for the temples of Philae; 6. mission for Abu Simbel; 7. mission for the remainder of the temples, sanctuaries, and the rock inscriptions; and 8. mission for the preparation of the plans and designs of all the temples of Nubia.

"Chapter IV is the important estimate of credits necessary for salaries, labor, and photographic and other supplies, including the building of a museum at Aswan Island and the publication of the results. The grand total is L. E. 660,000 (\$1,980,000), and the time required is estimated at three years. It must be remembered that the cost is less than one per cent of the estimated cost of the dam. In the figure the Abu Simbel project is not included. An appendix by M. Robichon describes a device for recording monuments by a stereopticon system of photography called photogrammetry.

"The report should be read by those interested and any suggestions should be communicated to Dr. Selim Hassan. This ambitious undertaking deserves all the help and advice that we can give, for once the dam is raised, if the High Dam project materializes, there will be no opportunity for second thoughts and suggestions."

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#### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt was held on 15 November 1955, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. The President, Edward W. Forbes, was in the chair; one hundred and forty-two members were represented by proxy or were present in person.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 16 November 1954 were presented and it was VOTED to accept these Minutes without reading.

It was VOTED to accept the financial report, October 1, 1954 through September 30, 1955, presented by the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Sanborn, as follows:

Summary of Cash Receipts and Disbursements  
October 1, 1954 through September 30, 1955

Boston Account (U.S. Dollars)

Balance in Bank September 30, 1954	\$1,951.58
Received as dues and donations,	3,225.00
Dividend income*	8.00
	<u>\$5,184.58</u>

Expenses paid

On account of Director and Administrative Officer in Egypt	1,880.53
Newsletter	574.76
Honorarium for Acting Executive Secretary	450.00
Stationery, office supplies, and expenses	117.01
Postage	49.66
Expenses of Meeting and Statutory Filing Fee	32.55
	<u>3,104.51</u>

Transfer of funds to Cairo Account (LE 173.205, see below)	500.00
Balance in bank September 30, 1955	<u>\$1,580.07</u>

Cairo Account (Egyptian Pounds)

Balance in Bank September 30, 1954	EE 224.630
Funds transferred from Boston (see above)	173.205
Contribution	34.720
	<u>432.555</u>
Expenses of Administrative Officer in Egypt	350.120
Balance in bank September 30, 1955	EE 82.435

\*On May 16, 1955 the Center received an anonymous gift of 20 shares General Electric Company which is not included in the total donations shown above. Based on published quotations, the value of the stock on May 16, 1955 was approximately \$1,010.

RECEIPTS

October 1, 1954 through September 30, 1955

Regular Memberships	140	@ \$5.00	700.00
for 2 additional years			<u>10.00</u>
Contributing Memberships	34	@ \$10.00	340.00
Sustaining Memberships	10	@ \$25.00	
for 1 additional year			250.00
Associate Memberships	8	@ \$50.00	400.00
Fellows	0		
Life Members	0		
Contributions			1,725.00
Dividends			1,500.00
			8.00
			<u>\$3,233.00</u>

It was VOTED to accept the Membership Report for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 1955 presented by the Membership Secretary, Richard A. Parker, as follows:

During the year the Center lost three members due to death, four who resigned, and six who permitted their membership to lapse. Thirty-five new members were admitted. This is a net gain of twenty-two members. The present total of 234 members is classified as follows:

Regular Members	163
Contributing "	45
Sustaining "	13
Associates	7
Fellows	1
Life Members	5
	234

NOTE: Additional information about membership will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

The President, Mr. Forbes, presented his Report for the past year as follows:

"The Members of the American Research Center in Egypt have been receiving the Newsletters sent out by our Acting Executive Secretary, Ashton Sanborn, through the year, and so we hope that all the Members are informed of what is going on in Egypt.

"We have reason to be proud of the excellent work which Bernard Bothmer did in his first year and is doing in his second year in Egypt. His stay there, unfortunately, will end when his Fellowship expires at the end of the current season (1956). Mr. Bothmer reports that he has made many friends and new Members who have joined the Center during these two years.

"A letter has just come to me from Ray Garner, who made the admirable and interesting film entitled "A Journey into the Past" the subject of which is Ancient Egypt. Mr. Garner says that we can have another showing of it without charge somewhere in the Boston area.

"We have suffered a grievous loss in the death of Carl T. Keller who, as you all know, was our Treasurer since the founding of the Center. We propose to incorporate into the Minutes of this Meeting a tribute to his memory.

"The loss of Mr. Keller brought up a difficult problem, which has been solved. We are pleased to report that Mr. Dunham has kindly agreed to act as Treasurer in the place of Mr. Bothmer and that he will take care of the accounts in his office.

"I think it would be appropriate for us to pass a vote of thanks to Mr. Donald P. Perry and Miss Ruth W. Sargent for their generosity in giving us their services for several months.

"I am glad to be able to report to you that a generous anonymous friend gave us twenty shares of General Electric stock which yields a welcome small annual dividend.

"We received another much appreciated gift of \$1,000. from one of our Members which can be used for running expenses, if necessary, but which we hope can be invested as part of our capital.

"Last spring two Foundations expressed an interest in our work but we have not heard of their decision. If they do not help us, it is to be hoped that we can find some other Foundation that will do so.

"To our regret Dows Dunham, who has been our valued First Vice-President since the foundation of the Center, has resigned, and we are pleased to announce that William Phillips has agreed to accept this position if elected. In place of Mr. Edwin E. Calverley we have asked Mr. Frederick Foster if he will accept election to be Second Vice-President. He has accepted. The Executive Committee can thus be enlarged from five to seven members.

"At the present time we are in a rather serious situation because so far we have been able, with one exception, to use the services of the Fulbright Fellows to Egypt as Directors of the Center in Cairo. We are told that the Fulbright Egypt program will cease at the end of the current season (1956). So we are at a loss for the present moment to know how we can pay our next year's Director unless money is forthcoming from some Foundation or elsewhere for that purpose.

"We are all glad that Mr. Bothmer, through the Fulbright grants, has had an opportunity of pursuing in Egypt research in connection with his special project which has occupied his attention for a number of years: Egyptian Sculpture of the Late Period. His several visits to ancient sites in the Delta have revealed vast areas practically unexplored by archaeologists which await properly equipped investigators."

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It was VOTED to accept the resignation of Mr. Dows Dunham as First Vice-President with appreciation of his service in this office since the founding of the Center.

It was VOTED to accept the resignation of Mr. Bernard V. Bothmer as Treasurer and to thank him for accepting this post after the death of Mr. Keller.

The following slate of nominees was presented for election as Officers and Trustees of the Center:

President: Edward W. Forbes

Vice-Presidents:

William Phillips, First Vice-President      Robert Woods Bliss  
Frederick Foster, Second Vice-President      John A. Wilson

Treasurer: Dows Dunham

Assistant Treasurer:

Bernard V. Bothmer

Acting Assistant Treasurer: (to serve during Mr. Bothmer's absence)

Ashton Sanborn

Executive Secretary:

Bernard V. Bothmer

Acting Executive Secretary: (to serve during Mr. Bothmer's absence)

Ashton Sanborn

Membership Secretary:

Richard A. Parker

Executive Committee:

Edward W. Forbes, Chairman

John D. Cooney

Richard A. Parker

Dows Dunham

William Phillips

Frederick Foster

Mrs. Joseph Lindon Smith

Trustees:

Sterling Dow (to fill the unexpired term of the late Carl T. Keller through 30 November 1959)

To serve through 30 November 1960

Henry C. Fischer

William Phillips

Ashton Sanborn

John A. Wilson

Enoch E. Peterson

Mr. Sanborn read the following Minute on the late Carl T. Keller.

"Carl T. Keller, Treasurer of the Center since its foundation, died at Tucson, Arizona, on the thirteenth of last May. His interest in the Center from its very beginning was constant and sincere and of a quite personal character. His unflagging generosity was shown not only by liberal financial help from year to year, but also by the invaluable assistance which he made possible in permitting his competent secretary, Miss Ruth Sargent, to have charge of the practical details of keeping the financial records and arranging for the annual auditing of the Center's accounts.

"By his death the Center has lost a loyal friend who always lent an attentive ear to its aims and ambitions and who was invariably responsive to its needs for material support."

Mr. Sanborn read the following Report of the Director in Cairo for 1954-55, which he had prepared at Mr. Bothmer's request from available data:

"The Director and Mrs. Bothmer (Administrative Officer of the Center) and Dr. William K. Simpson (Research Associate) arrived in Egypt on the sixteenth of September (1954). Headquarters were established in the Isis Building, Sharia el Walda, in the same block with the Fulbright Office, conveniently located near the American and British Embassies and within easy walking distance of the French and Egyptian Institutes, the Museum, and the Semiramis Hotel. Mr. John Dimick, Fellow of the Center in Cairo for 1954-55, and Mrs. Dimick arrived on October seventeenth. During part of the year Mr. Dimick was associated with the excavations at Mitrahine carried on by the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

"Cordial cooperation was developed with Egyptian officials, scholars, and colleagues, with the Department of Antiquities, the various museums, the U.S. Educational Foundation for Egypt, and the U.S. Information Service, all of which consulted the Center frequently. Mr. Dimick, as an experienced engineer, was requested to give advice on the lifting equipment to be used in removing the heavy roofing blocks from the boat grave on the south side of the Pyramid of Cheops. He and Mr. Bothmer followed the progress of this work in all its technical, archaeological, and political complications with a necessarily detached but often apprehensive interest.

"Various efforts were made to bring the Center's aims and work to the attention of the large local resident American community in order to enlist its support. Toward the end of November Ray Garner flew over from Greece to show his documentary film on the archaeology of Egypt, "A Journey into the Past," a splendid color movie which had already been shown in the United States to a number of the Societies of the Archaeological Institute. In Cairo the film was shown seven times to enthusiastic audiences totalling about seven hundred persons.

"Further interest in the Center was aroused by Mr. Bothmer's lectures in the Museum and guided tours to ancient Egyptian sites and monuments of special significance. Response was immediate and the numbers attending became embarrassingly large (from 60 to 148). Membership in the Center was made a prerequisite for joining these excursions. Mr. Bothmer also conducted the Fulbright Fellows in Egypt on their annual expedition to Luxor and Assuan.

"A jeep presented by an anonymous donor proved of inestimable value by enabling the Director to explore the country and to reach sites which would otherwise have been inaccessible to him. His reports on these trips to the Red Sea and through the Delta were printed in successive issues of the Newsletter. They are of permanent value to scholars as well as of interest to laymen.

"The unusually large number of visitors to Egypt during the late winter and early spring, including Members of the Center, taxed the time and energies of the Center's staff with a multitude of requests which were by no means all of a scholarly nature. But as the Director wrote at the end of May, after which time the Center would be closed until the beginning of September of the present year: 'The past eight months and a half seem to have gone very quickly, but in retrospect were rich and rewarding and full of pleasant interruptions which make the routine of research, office work, and field trips a rather varied experience. For one thing we have a group of Members in Cairo who, though admittedly few in number, are genuinely interested in the antiquity and art of the Nile Valley and there is hope that some day, in the not too distant future insha'allah, a permanent institution will serve American historians and archaeologists in this part of the Near East.'"

At the suggestion of Mr. Forbes it was VOTED that the Center express to Mr. Donald P. Perry and to Miss Ruth W. Sargent its grateful recognition of their generosity in continuing to take care of the financial accounts of the Center for a number of months after Mr. Keller's death.

It was VOTED that the Center express its thanks to Mr. Sanborn for his work as Acting Executive Secretary during Mr. Bothmer's absence.

It was also VOTED to thank Mr. Sanborn for releasing for other uses by the Center the honorarium customarily granted to the Executive Secretary.

Mr. Sanborn reported that the Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Archaeology, Professor Richard Stillwell of Princeton University, had generously offered to print without charge on the back cover of the January 1956 issue an appeal on behalf of the Center. Mr. Sanborn's suggestion that a similar appeal might be printed in Archaeology was approved.

The meeting then adjourned.

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ABYDOS - OCTOBER, 1955

Since the last report on this important Upper Egyptian site was printed in NL XVII, pp. 7-8, the area to the south of the forecourt of the Sety I temple has been completely excavated. Hopes for finding another palace similar to that of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu have not been fulfilled; the throne room with its dais remains the only place reminiscent of the presence of the king. Behind this columned hall two long corridors extend north-south which are flanked by numerous store rooms running

east-west. At the ends of some of these storerooms the valued ceilings are preserved, and the whole layout resembles that of the surroundings of the Ramesseum at Thebes. Only the doorways to the storerooms were lined with limestone jambs; everything else was built in mud brick, though the walls of the corridors seem to have been covered with mud plaster and painted as a few remains indicate. The whole structure is regular and constructed for a practical purpose. Priests and temple attendants may have lived in these rooms as well, but the impression prevails that the whole complex was constructed for the storage of provisions.

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THEBES - NOVEMBER, 1955

The staff of the Antiquities Department in Upper Egypt is the same as it was last year, except for Mr. Farid El Shabury who has replaced Dr. Hammad as Architect of Karnak. He is an energetic, able young man whose main effort is now devoted to the rebuilding of the Second Pylon of the Temple of Amun. At the rate at which the work has been progressing these last few weeks it is hoped that the project will be completed by June of next year. Then, finally, one will be able to look down the main axis of the Karnak Temple without being bothered by the sight of scaffolding or props which have disfigured the Second Pylon for nearly half a century. The vast field to the south of the first court is rapidly being cleared of the large sandstone blocks which originally formed the east and west walls of the Second Pylon. They are hoisted up and set back into their proper place within the structure, and once the job is finished the area will contain merely the thousands of small blocks from the early Aton Temple of Akhenaton which had been found in Pylons II and III and in the foundations of the Hypostyle Hall.

The house of the Antiquities Department at Karnak has been enlarged by several annexes, one of which will be arranged as a small museum in the near future. The Karnak storerooms, which had been sealed for several years, have now been reopened, an inventory of their contents has been drawn up, and the most attractive pieces will be placed on view at the planned museum, thus complementing the sculpture and relief which can be seen in the temple proper.

The Luxor Temple will be illuminated by searchlights every night during the tourist season, and in the last days of November the cable ditches and the pits for the lamps had already been dug. The illumination is scheduled to be ready for operation before the end of the year and will certainly add to the attraction this temple has for the visitors from the nearby hotels. Also the area to the north of the First Pylon is being cleared considerably. Zakaria Goneim had already dug the dromos and the beginning of the Sphinx Avenue which led from the temple to the Amun Temple of Karnak. Now the little gate of Hadrian on the west side of the dromos has been re-erected, and the houses to the west of dromos and Sphinx Avenue along the river road have been pulled down. There are still piles

of rubble, but they are being carted away more and more so that, later in the season, the entrance to the Luxor Temple can be shifted to the north end of the area by the Nile.

The French are busy continuing the preparation of their publications at Karnak North and at Deir el Medineh, and a number of other foreign scholars have already paid their annual visit to Thebes. Luxor has been tidied up a good deal, and is now one of the neatest provincial towns of Egypt. More tombs are being provided with electric lights in the Valley of the Kings, and the activities in this region speak well for the efficient administration of the Chief Inspector for Upper Egypt, Mr. Labib Habachi, and his staff.

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#### A HEAD OF OSORKON II

On October 19 Mr. Bothmer, on behalf of the University Museum, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, presented a plaster cast to Dr. Abbas Bayoumi, Director of the Cairo Museum of Egyptian Antiquities. The cast had been made from a life-size granite head in the collections of the University Museum last winter when Mr. John Dimick, then Fellow of the Center in Cairo, first informed Professor Froelich G. Rainey, Director of the University Museum, that the granite head in Philadelphia had originally formed part of a kneeling statue of King Osorkon II (870-847 B.C.), of Dynasty XXII, which was excavated by Flinders Petrie at Tanis in the Eastern Delta in 1885. Early photographs taken in the field show that the statue was found without its head; the latter was purchased by the University Museum in 1925 from a dealer, its provenance being unknown at that time. The statue, which represents the king kneeling and proferring a stela with a long inscription, had been broken probably long before the excavation. As a matter of fact, the inscription on the stela was partly copied by De Rougé more than eighty years ago when that French scholar visited Tanis in the company of Auguste Mariette and recorded some of the odd pieces lying about. The statue came to the Cairo Museum in 1904, and it was probably Borchardt who recognized that the inscribed stela belonged to this sculpture.

The head in Philadelphia was first published by B. Gunn, in The University Museum Bulletin, vol. 5, no. 3 (May, 1934), pp. 87-88; pl. X-XI. It is a fine piece of sculpture, and from time to time aroused the interest of scholars who tried to establish the identity of this unnamed king. The final identification was facilitated by the fact that the head obviously belonged to the statue of a king leaning forward in the act of offering or presenting an object and that it was carved from a dark grey granite speckled with large, white tell-tale pieces of quartz, a rather unusual kind of material. When it was found that the headless statue of King Osorkon II (Cairo no. 1040) consisted of the same material and showed the attitude which would make the line of neck and chin of the Philadelphia head plausible, a test was made by means of a thin plaster cast of the break brought to Egypt by Dr. Henry G. Fischer, of the University Museum.

This slab easily fitted the break on the statue's neck and thus enabled the Museum to identify the head as that of Osorkon II for whom the statue is inscribed.

Through the good offices of the U.S. Information Service in Cairo the presentation of the plaster cast of the head to the Cairo Museum was covered by the press, both locally and internationally, and the Center's role as intermediary was widely publicized. A certain amount of interest is being aroused because this is the first portrait of Osorkon II to become known since his tomb was discovered at Tanis less than two decades ago by the French Egyptologist Pierre Montet.

The Cairo Museum, incidentally, has put the head on permanent exhibition, in a specially constructed glass case which is fastened to the wall directly above the torso of Osorkon II, in appreciation of the gift of this plaster cast made by the University Museum.

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#### EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT, 1955-1956, AND SOME FINDS

On December 19, 1955, the German-Swiss dig at the sun sanctuary of King Weserkaf of Dynasty V (see NL XVIII, p. 2) was re-opened with a force of nearly one hundred workmen. In the middle of December, Professor W. B. Emery, of University College, London, arrived in Egypt to continue his excavations at the archaic cemetery of North Saqqara under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society. He is being assisted by Mr. A. J. Arkell, also of University College, and by Dr. A. Klasens of the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden, Holland, and work will begin before the end of the year.

The Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, too, has received an excavation permit and hopes to clear the remainder of the Early Dynastic cemetery of Abu Roash, north of Mena House, under the direction of Dr. A. Klasens, but this project will not get under way before the 1956-1957 season. The Belgian Fondation Egyptologique Reine Elisabeth was granted a renewal of its permit for Elkab, and the same holds true for the University Museum, the University of Pennsylvania, which will resume its excavation at Mitrahine (Memphis) in the end of January. The application of the Institute of Papyrology, the University of Florence, Florence, Italy, for excavations at Sheikh Abadeh (Antinoë) in Middle Egypt has been approved, whereas the granting of a permit to Mr. Alan Rowe, on behalf of the University of Manchester, to dig at the edge of the Fayoum, near Girza, has been taken under advisement.

The Department of Antiquities is continuing its clearance of the unfinished pyramid of Dynasty III at Saqqara and the chemical treatment of wood from the Cheops Boat Grave. It also has budgeted for funds necessary to clear the area to the north of the forecourts of the Sety I temple at Abydos. Furthermore it will begin, within the limits of the financial resources available to the Department during the current year, to expropriate houses and land at the bottom of the Cheops Pyramid causeway in order to probe for the remains of the Valley Temple of the Great Pyramid at Giza.

Among finds in recent months a kneeling naophorous headless statue, probably late New Kingdom in date, has to be mentioned which came to light south of the unfinished Dynasty III pyramid at Saqqara. At Tell Atrib, near Benha, the burial of a lady, Ta-di-bastet, was found which consists of a limestone sarcophagus, four alabaster canopic jars with limestone heads, and several hundred small shawabtis. The burial, which was discovered at a depth of about 10 feet below present surface level of the cultivated land, had been disturbed in ancient times, but yielded among the ornaments a number of gold amulets.

It should also be noted that the Delta continues to yield in many places Early Dynastic objects inscribed with royal names, and in excavations carried out by Mr. Shafiq Farid, Chief Inspector of the Department of Antiquities for Lower Egypt, several sites have been explored in the last three years which were occupied by Old Kingdom and Middle Kingdom settlements. In addition he discovered two more Greek settlements of fairly early date, and in view of the rapid deterioration of the Delta sites it is to be regretted that no foreign expeditions have applied for excavations in Lower Egypt.

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#### THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FOR EGYPT, 1955-1956

The original fund which was established through the sale of American war surplus material to the Egyptian Government is nearly exhausted, and it has been announced that this is the last year during which the U.S. Educational Foundation for Egypt will operate. Both Dr. Simpson and Mr. Bothmer were fortunate in receiving a renewal of their grant which will enable them to continue their Egyptological research through the spring of 1956 and, in their spare time, to work for the Center in Cairo. The other grantees of this closing year of the program are: Professors: Dr. Malcolm E. Agnew (Classics), Cecilia E. Brennan (Child Guidance), Dr. Warren H. Brown (Sociology), Dr. Merrel D. Clubb (English Literature), Dr. David P. Edgell (American and English Literature), Dr. George P. Faust (English as a Foreign Language), Henrietta R. Howard (Child Guidance), Dr. Paul McHenry Roberts (Linguistics and History of the English Language), Dr. L. Albert Scipio (Aeronautical Engineering), Dr. Howard Dwight Smith (Architecture), Dr. Herbert A. Young (Student Activities), Dr. Samuel D. Wehr (English), Florence E. Woodhams (Art). Research Scholar: Dr. Dorothy C. Saunders (Biology). Students: Richard Taft Antoun (International Relations), Roger Alan Flynn (Art), Paul G. Forand (Islamic Literature), Roberta A. Jacoby (Islamic Art), Edward Frank Wente (Egyptology), Ernest J. Zeller (History), Leon Zolondek (Arabic Language and Literature).

Mr. Richard W. Downar, for many years the able Executive Officer of the Foundation in Cairo, left Egypt at the end of July to become head of the Italian Fulbright program. His address is now: Commissione Americana per gli Scambi Culturali con l'Italia, via Ludovisi 16, Rome, Italy.

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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, LUXOR

Dr. George R. Hughes, Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago, and a Trustee of the Center, writes from Thebes:

"That the University of Chicago's Epigraphic Survey has been at Luxor since mid-October continuing the recording of Ramses III's mortuary temple (Medinet Habu) hardly comes under the heading of news, but the fact that another instalment of the record will appear in print before long may be. The fifth volume in the Medinet Habu series of plate volumes was handed over to the editors in September. The volume will be of the smaller format of Volume III rather than of the larger format of the other volumes. The desirable ends of wieldiness and economy outweigh the occasional problem of reproducing a scene or series of scenes on an adequate scale on a smaller plate. Furthermore, the size of the scenes now to be published from the rear portion of the temple is more modest than that of, for example, the battle reliefs and the reliefs of the great religious festivals which appear in previous volumes.

"The new volume will contain 115 plates of drawings and photographs, a considerable number of them double plates. The presentation of some of the material in photographs only without accompanying line drawings will be a departure from practice in earlier volumes. For example, all the reliefs on the three flat sides of the Osiride columns in the Second Court will appear in photograph only. They are almost exclusively simple scenes in which Ramses III offers to a deity and are fairly well preserved so that good photographs seem adequate. This practice will be continued wherever the material is more or less commonplace, its state of preservation is good and the possibility of obtaining a good photograph exists. In the center of the rear portion of the temple, for example, only the bottoms of columns and walls survive. Such bits of relief as appear on them cannot be omitted because of what they may reveal, but scarcely merit drawing and can be well and easily photographed.

"The main body of material in Volume V consists of the reliefs on the west wall of the Second Court, on the three extant walls of the First Hypostyle Hall, in the Treasury and the Ramses II chapel on the south side of the First Hypostyle Hall, and in the first three chapels on the north side of the same hall. Since the fourth (Sokar) and fifth (Slaughterhouse) rooms on the north side were published in earlier volumes, Volume V brings us to a line across the interior of the temple just behind the First Hypostyle Hall.

"Nearly all of the material in the new volume pertains to the cult and except for a very few scattered photographs which have heretofore appeared in books none of it has ever been made available. In addition we have gathered up all the marginal inscriptions in the First Court, that is, the running inscriptions on architraves, the sides and bases of columns, on the balustrades

of the ramp and above and below the scenes on the walls, and we have inserted them at the end of the volume.

"Thus encouraged the expedition foresees the finishing of Volume VI in about four seasons and looks forward to the completion of the temple with Volume VII, both volumes to be of about the size of Volume V. Our ability to see Reliefs and Inscriptions at Karnak. III. The Bubastite Portal appear in 1954 and Medinet Habu V in 1956 does not mean that the Survey has increased its staff nor lessened the care with which it draws and collates. In part it had an accumulation of drawings already done in years past to draw upon and needed but to complete the record in certain areas, although as a matter of fact the majority of plates in Medinet Habu V is the work of recent seasons."

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#### THE UNESCO CENTER IN CAIRO

Dr. William K. Simpson, on the basis of a program outline in French which was printed this summer, reports as follows:

"One of the most promising developments for Egyptology is the plan for a UNESCO Center in Cairo, the aim of which will be to make accessible in the shortest time and at the least cost a complete and well indexed record of the dynastic monuments of Egypt and of objects in the Cairo Museum, for the most part consisting of photographs, plans, and copies of scenes and texts. Partial records of this nature exist in a number of universities and museums in Europe and America, but so far there is no comparable documentation available in Egypt itself. The UNESCO Center is now undergoing growing pains connected with its organization and the selection of personnel. If it is well organized and if it is correctly and wisely oriented, it may well prove to be a great boon to the science of Egyptology. It therefore behooves us to aid in any way possible to see that the UNESCO Center succeeds. Since almost nothing has appeared in the Egyptological journals or UNESCO publications concerning this project, Mr. Bothmer has asked me to render a brief account of the undertaking. The following is based upon a ten-page mimeographed statement given me by Mme. Noblecourt earlier this year.

"The UNESCO Center came into existence through a request made by the Egyptian delegate to UNESCO. Plans were drawn up, and last April a contract with the Egyptian Government was signed. Egypt will contribute a large sum, approximately equivalent to that devoted to the Department of Antiquities, and UNESCO will furnish funds for foreign experts and materials. Egypt has also set aside a house on the Island of Rodah for the UNESCO Center Headquarters.

"Three sections are contemplated: a section in Cairo for administration, a section for technicians, architects, photographers, copyists, and moulders, and a section for the scientific planning and carrying out of the individual projects. The results of its work will be published in fascicles at the least possible expense. Guides and brochures, educational films, public lectures, and

exhibitions for conventions will all be part of the work of the Educational Division of the UNESCO Center. Arrangements will be made for students to participate in this work.

"As to the organization of the UNESCO Center, it will be headed by a twelve-member committee directly responsible to the Minister of Education. The Administrator-General, Professor Mustafa Amer, has already been selected, as has the UNESCO Counsellor, Mme. Noblecourt. A first mission has been arranged for the recording of Abu Simbel, and the services of Messrs. Nims, Donadoni, Maystre, and Miss Moss have been secured.

"In evaluating the project as it seems to be taking shape, it will occur immediately to those with some experience in these matters that the undertaking is so vast in scope that it will be impractical to put it into practice. On this account there has been some objection to the creation of the UNESCO Center. The key to its success or failure obviously lies in the individuals who will be charged with the direction and execution of the undertaking. If the Center does not secure the very best personnel available, there is a possibility that a vast sum may be wasted. If only a part of the project is successfully completed, there will be a great contribution to Egyptology, provided the quality of the work is of the highest standard."

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#### CAIRO MEMBERSHIP

On October 11 a tea given at the office for the Cairo members reunited most of those who had joined the Center during the last season. Plans for the coming season were discussed and a schedule of activities drawn up for the first term ending on December 28. Announcements appeared a few days later in the Embassy circular and the bulletin of the American School in Meadi, and within a month the membership of the Cairo group numbered thirty-five, an increase which speaks well for the interest in Egyptian archaeology among the resident Americans.

The first event scheduled was a trip to Abydos in Upper Egypt on October 23, and more than a dozen participated in the tour of the temples of Sety I and Ramesses II and a visit to the fort of Shunet ez-Zebib of Dynasties II-III. One group made the trip by car, leaving on Saturday morning from Cairo and returning on Monday afternoon, while the other party spent two nights on the train, being met at, and brought back to, Balyana station by a very cooperative First Lieutenant of the local police, arrangements for which had been made through the Tourist Police Department in Cairo.

On Sunday, October 30, Dr. Simpson and Mr. Bothmer took two groups of members through some of the galleries of the Cairo Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, and the following Sunday a trip round the Cheops Pyramid was arranged during which some of the usually inaccessible tomb chapels of Dynasty IV in the Eastern Cemetery were visited. The Department of Antiquities kindly provided the services of the Chief Ghafir of the Giza region for this trip which was concluded by a glimpse over the wall of the Cheops Boat Grave site on the south side of the Great Pyramid.

On November 13 the members visited the site of the temple of Heliopolis, with its lone surviving obelisk of Sesostris I and the remains of the ancient town which offers one of the best examples of stratigraphy in Egypt. The masses of pottery fragments, bits of quartzite, charcoal, and bone imbedded in the kom were duly noted, and the group seemed to enjoy the tour of this rarely visited site, in spite of the dusty country roads on which the thirteen cars and two jeeps created quite a stir. As usual the members were met by the ghafir of the Antiquities Department which always has been most cooperative in arranging for these excursions.

The main event of the month, however, was the excursion to Upper Egypt, and on November 24 some 40 members met in Luxor, including one member from New York who happened to be in Egypt on a flying visit. The first day was devoted to the temples of Luxor and Karnak. On November 25 the group crossed the Nile early in the morning and visited Deir el Bahari, some royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, several private tomb chapels at Sheikh Abdel Qurna and, right after lunch, the Ramesseum. In the afternoon the members saw the temple of Deir el Medineh and the tomb of Sen-nedjem and briefly stopped in the Valley of the Queens for a visit to the tomb of Prince Amen-her-khepeshef since the main attraction of the Valley, the tomb of Queen Nefertari, is inaccessible because of its bad state of preservation. The last hour of the afternoon was spent at Medinet Habu, and at sunset a brief halt was made at the Colossus of Memnon. The next day the members completed their tour of the temples of Karnak and Luxor, and on Sunday, November 27, a somewhat smaller group went in six cars on the West Side to Dendara to visit the temple of Hathor, one of the finest examples of Ptolemaic-Roman architecture and reliefs in Egypt. Monsieur François Daumas, of the University of Lyon, who is engaged in the publication of the temple, had just arrived a few days before and showed the group the Mammisi of Trajan as well as two of the crypts in the west wall of the main temple which are rarely accessible to visitors.

Back in Cairo the members spent Sunday, December 11, at the Unas Pyramid complex and in the tombs on both sides of the Unas causeway at Saqqara, and on December 18 visited the Dynasty V pyramids at Abusir. The year ended with a second tour of the Cairo Museum on December 28, bringing to twenty-four the days on which activities had been scheduled for the Cairo members during 1955.

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#### LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

Under this title a review of the movie of the same name has been published in the Egyptian monthly The Scribe (The Centre for Middle East Research, Information Department, Cairo), no. 5, December, 1955, pp. 24-26, by Professor Selim Hassan, the dean of Egyptian Egyptologists. In his severe, yet objective critique the author limits himself to pointing out the most glaring inaccuracies and outright mistakes made in so lavish and expensive a production. He stresses that "THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS has certainly done nothing to add to Egypt's prestige, and wherever it is shown, the majority of the people who see it will certainly get a very wrong and bad impression of Egypt."

A number of films, with Egypt as a setting, have been made in recent years, greatly aided by the exceptional facilities the Egyptian Government was willing to grant for these productions on antiquities sites. Whether scholarly advice was sought and disregarded, or never invited in the first place, is unimportant; the fact remains that these productions, when viewed here in Cairo, present a misleading picture of American interest in, and understanding of, Egypt's past.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT DATED DECEMBER 29, 1955

We have been very busy during the first four months of the current season. Mr. Simpson and I resumed our research work under the terms of the Fulbright grant which centers more or less around the Cairo Museum and nearby sites and, from the Center's office, have continued to provide liaison, answer inquiries, furnish photographs, mail books to institutions and colleagues at home, and tour the Museum and archaeological sites with members of the Center's Cairo group. Mrs. Bothmer and I went by jeep to Upper Egypt for three weeks, following the main route to Assiout which, however, is not yet fully macadamized and entails a number of detours. From Assiout to Luxor we always stay on the east bank throughout where the mud-packed surface of the highway permits fairly swift travel. The road maintenance crews have all been issued a kind of cotton fatigue uniform, and not being quite used to it yet they sport various parts of it in connection with their traditional garb. On the way home, though familiar with practically every vista of the 460 miles of road between Luxor and Cairo, we were struck particularly by the beauty of the view of Qau el Kebir and Hemamiyah in the late afternoon sun which brought out the salient features of the layout of the majestic funerary establishments of the Dynasty XII nomarchs.

Dr. Simpson, too, came to Upper Egypt on a short trip by car, visiting Assiout, Quft (Koptos), Thebes, and the main sites further south to Assuan before returning to Cairo via Port Sofaga and the Red Sea route. We drove to some nearby sites together when we met in Luxor and saw for the first time the temples of Tod and Medamoud, both of which can be reached easily from the Upper Egyptian capital. Tod, to the south of Luxor, is situated in the midst of a village teeming with life, between the cultivation and the Eastern desert. Both the New Kingdom sanctuary and the Ptolemaic temple are fairly well preserved, and the village kom rising on both sides of the temple enclosure wall may cover up a good many more antiquities. Medamoud, north of Luxor in the cultivation, is of a much more impressive layout though only Late Period structures are now exposed to view. But in the adjoining court of the old French excavation house one is surprised to find a large number of mostly life-size Middle Kingdom royal statues standing around, all of them headless yet many of them quite well preserved. There are heaps of other fragments which were considered too insignificant in view of the richer finds which are now in Paris and Cairo, but any one of the torsos of the kings of Dynasty XII, seemingly deserted at this rarely visited site, would be an outstanding attraction to many small museums.

On a later trip I went to Mo'alla for a few hours where the tombs of Ankhtify and Sebek-hotep present some of the finest examples of paintings from the period between the Old and Middle Kingdoms.

For some months Dr. Bayard Dodge, long-time President of the American University at Beirut and one of the outstanding authorities on the Middle East, has been attached to the U.S. Information Service at the Embassy in Cairo as liaison officer and consultant on contemporary cultural trends. At the Cairo Museum, Anwar Shoukry, formerly Professor of Egyptology at Cairo University, became a full Keeper on October 15, 1955. He now shares an office with Mr. Maurice Rafael adjoining the Journal d'Entrée. There have been a number of visitors among whom I might mention Miss Virginia Grace from the Agora Excavations of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens; Mr. Peter Fraser, a Greek epigraphist from All Souls College, Oxford; Donald P. Hansen, a graduate of Harvard, who spent some weeks in Egypt before leaving for Nippur on November 11; and Karl Katz, Fellow of the American Schools of Oriental Research, who is studying archaeological sites and museum collections on a year's grant in the Middle East.

In the end of November Professor Ahmed Fakhry and his family left their well-known house in the Western Cemetery at Giza, where for more than a decade they had been host to many visitors from foreign lands, and moved into town. Their new address is: Ahmed Morsi Building, 12 B sharia el Nil, Giza (telephone 896643). On November 5, Mr. Labib Habachi, Chief Inspector of Upper Egypt for the Antiquities Department, returned from a very fruitful study trip to England, Sweden, and France. His campaign at Zawiet Umm el Rakham (see NL XIX, page 5) during June and July has been most successful. He found 16 stelae of the time of Ramesses II with important inscriptions, and after one more season hopes to be ready to publish his findings in full.

Professor Selim Hassan's Giza VII sells for P.T. 400, and Alexandria University reports that the price of Professor Abubakr's Excavations at Giza, 1949-1950 has been set at P.T. 356 (postage additional).

A few days before Christmas the UNESCO mission arrived at Abusimbel to undertake a six-week campaign of recording a section of the inscriptions and reliefs of Ramesses II. Dr. Charles F. Nims of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago has been engaged as photographer, and Professor Sergio Donadoni of the University of Milano as epigraphist.

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ANNALES DU SERVICE DES ANTIQUITES DE L'EGYPTE, VOL. 53, PART 2

This fascicule, completing the volume for 1955, was published on December 15. The price is PT 200; it contains the following articles:

pp. 221-250 P. Lacau: L'Or dans l'architecture égyptienne  
(8 illus., 5 pls.)

pp. 251-278 Abd el-Mohsen el-Khachab: Numismatic I. Collection de monnaies d'or d'Achmounein au Musée Gréco-romain d'Alexandrie (9 pls.)

pp. 279-317 H. Senk: "Kontaktfigur" und "Kontaktgruppe" in der Ägyptischen Flachbildnerei II (10 illus.)

pp. 319-338 F. W. von Bissing: La chambre des trois saisons du Sanctuaire Solaire du roi Rathourès à Abousir (23 pls.)

pp. 339-439 J. Spiegel: Das Auferstehungsritual der Unaspyramide (6 illus., 5 pls.)

pp. 441-480 L. Habachi: Notes on the Delta Hermopolis, capital of the XVth nome of Lower Egypt (20 illus.)

pp. 481-482 L.-A. Christophe: Deux inscriptions du Temple de Philae.... (rectification)

pp. 483-484 (Table des matières)

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MEMPHIS - 1955

With this caption an excellent map has been published by John Dimick who was Fellow of the Center in Cairo during 1954-1955. Its scale is 1:2500, it has been printed in three colors accompanied by a useful legend, and when unfolded measures 33 by 43 inches. It incorporates the site and finds of the latest excavations at Mitrahine, those of the University of Pennsylvania Museum (Philadelphia 4, Pa.), from which it can be obtained for 50 cents (including postage).

The publication of this map fulfills a long-felt need, and it is hoped that handy maps of this kind will eventually become available for such major sites as Tanis, Mendes, Giza, Saqqara, Hermopolis, Amarna, Abydos, Dendara, Koptos, Thebes, and Assuan, embodying the monuments which are visible today. It is true that for some of these places topographical information and data can be gleaned from guidebooks, articles in scholarly periodicals and from monographs, but for all practical purposes they are inaccessible to a wider public, and thus much desirable information cannot be used by the traveler who is unable to spend much time on preliminary research. In view of the number of excavations scheduled for the current season, the topographical recording of Egyptian antiquities sites lags more and more behind. Still, at fairly low expense, vital information can be gathered today which may no longer be available a few years hence, and maps could be produced which would be invaluable to future generations of historians, archaeologists, and travelers.

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COPTIC EGYPT

Guide de l'Egypte chrétienne (Musée Copte, Eglises, Monastères) by Dr. Iskander Badawy, with 38 drawings by the author and excellent indexes, is a delightful little book, published by the Société d'Archéologie Copte, 15 sharia Walda Pasha, Cairo, from which it can be obtained for P.T. 50.

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MEMBERSHIP AT THE END OF 1955

By the end of December 1955 membership in the Center had increased to a total of 265; most of the new Members joined in Cairo in response to the lively interest aroused by Mr. Bothmer's lectures in the Museum and visits to ancient sites not only in the vicinity of Cairo but southward through the Nile Valley as far as Luxor and Thebes. Notes on these trips appear elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. Additional Members are invited, as the Center urgently needs wider support. There are six classes of membership, as follows:

Regular Member, \$5  
Contributing Member, \$10  
Sustaining Member, \$25

Associate of the Center, \$50  
Fellow of the Center, \$100  
Life Member, one payment, \$500

Checks in payment of annual dues should be made payable to the American Research Center in Egypt and sent to the Acting Executive Secretary, 147 Brattle Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts. Contributions to the Center are deductible from Federal Income Tax returns.

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Ashton Sanborn  
Acting Executive Secretary  
147 Brattle Street  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts